



# Craig Donnelly's

## ANALY\$IS

### @parxracing



Craig has been involved in horseracing for 50 years as a handicapper, journalist, linemaker and analyst. He began his career in 1969 handicapping the races for the Miami Beach Sun. Beginning in 1971 he began picking winners for the Philadelphia Inquirer, where he remained for 37 years. Craig has also been a linemaker for the Atlantic City Racecourse and The Meadowlands, where he was the program oddsmaker and television co-host for seven seasons.

*Sponsored and Distributed by the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horseman's Association*

**MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.**

**Best Bets: NEVER SAY NEVER (7<sup>th</sup>) – DEVIL'S CAY (8<sup>th</sup>)**

#### Race 1

- 5** I CAN DO MAGIC – Outrun lately but takes significant drop in rare route attempt for Wyner barn.
- 4** UTILITY – Used up chasing loose pacesetter and slow start previously; must put it all together.
- 2** DR. LOU – Far back after three month absence and cost \$20,000 in April; drops, can't dismiss.
- 6** PRAIRIE DUNES – Determined score with maidens in 22<sup>nd</sup> try for new barn; logical next step.

#### Race 2

- 5** SHE CAN SCAT – Set up nicely for elongated sprint pressing eventual winner in route.
- 8** MELITTLEFROSTGIRL – Good on occasion and competes cheapest ever for 18% Solis barn.
- 4** HARD SPICE – Signs of life in Florida and Gulfstream shippers excelling locally; upset chance.
- 6** J J'S HONOR – Finished behind top choice after crushing maidens this yardage; speedy threat.

#### Race 3

- 3** MY MAMBA – Moved very wide when less than two lengths behind in much tougher company.
- 6** FAST BOB – Veteran stretch-runner always dangerous with this kind; needs aid of pace set-up.
- 5** HOTPOT – Fair showing following hiatus at loftier level; upset winner this spot prior outing.
- 1** CATHEDRAL BEACH – Difficult to like or ignore plunge after vanned off at Monmouth in May.

#### Race 4

- 2** MY SPRING SUNSHINE – Pulled away after dueling in decisive score; repeats with confidence.
- 1** BREEZY DANCE – Led throughout with routers to end losing skid; needs to shake loose.
- 3** MISS CINNAMON – Used up dueling better in route and returns to level of October claim.
- 7** MIKEY'S SONG – Far behind in difficult trip with classier; upset winner after Velazquez claim.

#### Race 5

- 1** TAKEMETOTHEMOON – Rushed up after stumbling start; likely favorable trip from inside.
- 10** CHECKITUP – Rediscovered ability when outrunning top choice; threat despite tricky post.
- 7** KHOPE\$H – Disliked wet surface as usual but winless in 11 races this season; stamina test.
- 5** MENDELSFLY – Shelved since January but capable at times; romped for Conning earlier.

#### Race 6

- 7** FLYIN HAWAIIAN – Heavily-backed in sharp debut at Monmouth; experience edge this field.
- 8** COLOMA – Newcomer ships from Delaware for Pa.-bred bonus; Lynch barn excels with juveniles
- 6** FREELY HELD – Cost \$75,000 at auction and sire multiple graded stakes-winner; guessing race.
- 1** VINO GRAY – Rookie by solid sire Vino Rosso but inside post often difficult for rookies.

**Race 7**

<b>8</b>	<b>NEVER SAY NEVER</b> – Easily second best to talented repeat winner; Lupe Preciado barn hot.
<b>2</b>	<b>BOTTLES</b> – Led throughout in decisive score to boost career mark to 4-for-8; obvious threat.
<b>1</b>	<b>PLAY THE GRAY</b> – Finished behind top pick when adding Lasix; romped before in New York.
<b>4</b>	<b>RIVER'S GAMBLE</b> – Soundly beaten by second choice when Pino claimed for \$20,000.

**Race 8**

<b>2</b>	<b>DEVIL'S CAY</b> – Ran into tiger at Colonial after narrow loss in game try locally; inside stalking trip
<b>1</b>	<b>STAY FUNNY</b> – Improved and very quick gelding battled to final yards after Perez barn re-claim.
<b>7</b>	<b>SUNDAY SPIRIT</b> – Nearly always fires and often involved in tight finishes; back with sprinters.
<b>8</b>	<b>UNCAPTURED STAR</b> – Walloped easier group in first local attempt; speedy but tested this spot.

**Race 9**

<b>10</b>	<b>COBBLE ROAD</b> - Good effort behind heavy favorite in best try in ages; outside stalking trip.
<b>3</b>	<b>BRINDISI</b> – Edged this level two weeks ago when easily second best; often forms bottom exacta.
<b>9</b>	<b>BIG BROWN SHOES</b> – Sharp at Delaware and showed speed locally; appears in peak form.
<b>2</b>	<b>FULL IRISH</b> – Hard to like or dismiss plunge after \$16,000 buy; obvious ability advantage.